

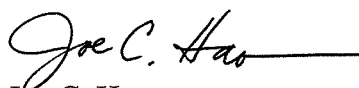
REMARKS

In the Office Communication mailed May 12, 2009, the Examiner alleges that the instant application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825 because the claims recite various genes which are not identified by their corresponding SEQ ID NOs. In response, Applicant has amended claim 42 to add appropriate sequence identifiers into the claim and to clarify that an expression level of each of the GRO3, HNL, MMP-12, elafin, and COL6A3 gene products is determined in the presently claimed methods. Claims 46, 48, and 49 have been amended to establish proper antecedent basis for the term "gene products." Thus, no new matter has been introduced. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to the claims be entered.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that the instant application complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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